

This Sinclair Broadcasting company is an outrage, but only the latest in a long string of them.

Ever since the demise of the policy of the FCC that became known as the "Fairness Doctrine" things have been going down hill slowly. Recently, however, the bad behavior of conservative media conglomerates seems to be increasing.

Like Clear Channel's company-ordered fake "grassroots" boycotts of groups or artists like the Dixie Chicks, Sinclair's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. These smaller acts are nothing compared to the Fox propaganda channel and Rupert's attempts to own everything. This is a frightening road to travel and these companies must be stopped. Without being forced, companies rarely do the right thing (if this wasn't true then guys like Aaron Feuerstein and Malden Mills wouldn't be such big news when they were good corporate citizens). There should be MORE regulation and restrictions on ownership, not less.

Big media giants are bad for everyone except possibly the shareholders. Centralized news and advertising take away the local flavor, advertisers can be stuck up for high prices since there is no longer any competition and the conservative owners can force stations to air or print stories, even outright lies, that further the agenda of the company.

There could be no better policies for the American public and, really, the world, than if the Fairness Doctrine and ownership rules were reinstated.

Thank you.